



September 29, 2010

Dear Robert Ray,

I am writing this letter to express my support for the Flathead Conservation District's efforts on Haskill Creek. Application-based education and service learning are vital for Montana's citizens. Both students and their mentors are needed to promote a culture that truly understands the value of riparian areas and works to restore and protect them. By supporting this effort, you are helping to build a community of environmental stewards and restore a critical reach of Haskill Creek.

Patti Mason along with Chris Ruffatto (Montana Watercourse's Water Teacher of the Year award recipient) and his FREEFLOW team are exemplary models of how public officials, educators, students and private property owners can come together to enhance environmental quality. These leaders understand that the return on investment is greatest when education is translated into action, and action becomes habit. What is more, they have done exceptional work to involve the community on other parts of Haskill Creek, and hope to continue the success on this portion of the Reimer reach. Due to these efforts, much of their workforce and supplies are donated or at low cost to the team itself.

As a partner of this program, I will work with the Haskill Creek restoration team leaders to ensure that programs are coordinated and relevant to the local community. I will further support this effort by providing any necessary professional development workshops, literature, supplies, curriculum and other materials as funds and time allow. We will also support the educational and community building efforts of this work by collaborating on outreach materials and supporting the associated marketing and media campaigns.

Your time and consideration are greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with the FCD and the Haskill Creek team on this project.

Sincerely,

Debra Earl  
Director, Montana Watercourse

September 30, 2010

Robert Ray/Water Activities Work Group  
MT Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Planning Bureau  
1520 E. Sixth Ave.  
PO Box 200901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Dear Mr. Ray,

I am writing this letter to express support for continued restoration efforts along Haskill Creek near Whitefish, MT. Sedimentation and nutrient-loading in Haskill Creek continues to put a well-documented supply of non-point source pollution into the creek, which travels downstream to Whitefish River, Flathead River, and finally Flathead Lake. The lack of riparian vegetation, combined with historic straightening of the creek channel, accelerates erosion and contributes greatly to the existing problems with the creek.

The community of Whitefish is blessed to have an array of folks who are dedicated to stream restoration. This team includes hydrologists, engineers, schoolteachers and students, local conservation districts, landowners, and local propagators of native plants. Teamwork and a common goal are bringing these people together to solve a long-standing problem in our local watershed.

The Center for Native Plants provides native plant material and resources for both public and private land restoration efforts throughout northwest Montana. We have worked with Whitefish High School and the Flathead Conservation District in the past to supply locally-grown and seed-sourced native shrubs for both Haskill Creek and the Whitefish River. All plants have been provided at below wholesale rates in order to support collaborative efforts and the community spirit of local restoration. If given the opportunity we will continue to provide high-quality native plant material for this collaborative effort. Haskill Creek needs help, and the benefits of restoration will be evident all the way to Flathead Lake.

Thank you for your consideration,

Greg Gunderson

Center for Native Plants  
1515 Trumble Creek Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
Mailing address: PO Box 1043, Whitefish, MT 59901

Robert Ray / Water Activities Work Group  
Mt Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Planning Bureau  
1520 E. Sixth Ave.  
Helena, Mt 59620-0901

Dear Sir:

The Haskill basin Watershed Council is submitting a grant application through Flathead Conservation District to DEQ for funding of a restoration project on Haskill creek. This site was identified as Reimers property and extends for approximately 1222' along the creek. This site was identified for restoration priority as part of a Watershed Assessment completed in 2003. Similar work was completed on Voermans property up stream which reduced non point source pollution from sediment loading by 86% plus along the restored reach.

The proposed work will reduce erosion, thus improving water quality, restore the perimeter flood plain, and increase riparian and aquatic habitat. A group of students from Whitefish High School have also been involved in the restoration projects above this site and would continue to be involved in Reimers property restoration.

Sincerely

Chester Powell  
Haskill Basin Watershed Council



October 1, 2010

Mr. Robert Ray  
Department of Environmental Quality  
PO Box 200901  
1520 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620 – 0901

Dear Sir:

It is my pleasure to offer support for the continued restoration effort along Haskill creek near Whitefish, Montana. While efforts have reduced some sediment and nutrient contribution to the Creek and the Whitefish River, the proposed project would continue to improve water quality in the streams that are tributary to Flathead Lake. Haskill Creek has been significantly altered in its history and the plan for restoration will reverse some of the damage done through private and government programs from the past. Notably stream straightening and channel relocation. Haskill Creek has suffered extensive channel erosion as a result of these past practices.

The Flathead Conservation District on behalf of the Haskill Basin Watershed Council is in the process of submitting a proposal to restore 1222' of channel on the Reimer Property. This site was identified in the 2003 Watershed Assessment as a priority for restoration. The techniques proposed are similar to those used on the Voermans property several years ago that effectively reduced sediment contribution and nutrient loading to the creek by over 80%... an impressive result. The proposed work will also restore floodplain function and improve riparian and aquatic habitat.

The students that I work with at Whitefish High School have been instrumental in monitoring, assessing, writing technical documents and conducting physical and biological improvements for over 15 years. We plan to contribute significantly to this latest reclamation effort. The FREEFLOW Program remains committed to habitat improvement, data collection and ongoing involvement with Haskill Creek. The application of science and conservation concepts is a remarkable hands-on opportunity for our students. They work hard, proudly review their results and contribute to our community on an ongoing basis. Their reputation in our state is highly regarded and widely known.

Please accept my recommendation for approval of the Channel Stabilization, Riparian Enhancement, Sediment Reduction and Nutrient Abatement efforts on Haskill Creek.

Sincerely,

Chris Ruffatto  
Project FREEFLOW Director  
Whitefish High School  
600 East Second Street  
Whitefish, Montana 59937

2010 Draft grant #11

**RECEIVED**  
OCT 05 2010  
DEQ  
Planning Division

1250 Haskill Basin Road  
Whitefish, MT 59937  
September 27, 2010

Robert Ray, Water Activities Work Group  
MT Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Planning Bureau  
1520 E Sixth Avenue  
PO Box 300902  
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Dear Sir,

I am writing as a concerned citizen.

The Flathead Conservation District, on behalf of the Haskill Basin Watershed Council (of which I am a member), is in the process of submitting a grant application to DEQ to fund the construction phase of restoration on 1222' of Haskill Creek on the Reimer property. This site is the last one identified in the 2003 Watershed Assessment as being a priority for restoration.

I wish to point out that this proposed restoration intends to use techniques similar to what was so successfully used upstream on the Voermans' property. This reduced nonpoint source pollution from sediment by at least 86% along the restored reach.

This proposed work will reduce erosion, improve water quality, restore flood plain function, and increase riparian and aquatic habitat.

This project will utilize Whitefish High School students as the previous restorations have, which reduces cost, allows service learning and effects these students' values around water quality.

I strongly urge you to approve this proposal and facilitate its initiation in any way you can. Thank you for your consideration regarding this very important project.

Sincerely,

  
Steven C. Bryson